



George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
Glenwood-Pedlar River Ranger District
27 Ranger Lane
Natural Bridge Station, VA 24579
(540) 291-2188
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Contact: Annie Downing or David Whitmore
Phone Number: 540- 291- 2188

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Service Announces Seasonal Closures

Natural Bridge Station, Va. - The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture will temporarily close some roads and recreation areas for the winter in Amherst, Augusta, Bedford, Botetourt, Nelson, and Rockbridge counties. More than 100 miles of national forest roads in these counties remain open year round. A few roads will open for the fall, and close early January. Visit www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj for current information.

The Forest Service manages facilities and roads to ensure safety, minimize maintenance, and protect wildlife and water. Most National Forest roads were constructed many years ago and not built for modern vehicles and extensive use. Driving in winter conditions causes damage that is expensive to repair and requires additional maintenance. Typically, roads that are gated during the winter months are in better overall condition. Protecting streams from road sediment is essential to quality water. Limiting vehicle access on some roads promotes critical wildlife development.

The Peavine Road (FSR 318) in Amherst County remains closed from the top of Bear Tolley Road (FSR 36E) to the intersection of Peavine and Pera Road (State route 610). This road was significantly damaged from illegal activity in 2009. The South Pedlar ATV Trail System will close on December 1, 2011 and reopen April 1, 2012. Sherando Lake and Cave Mountain Lake Recreation Areas are closed and will reopen April 1, 2012. The gate at Sherando Lake at State route 664 is open until 10 p.m. daily during the winter. North Creek Campground, located south of Arcadia in Botetourt County, is open through the winter.

Additional information is available at www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj or by calling the Glenwood & Pedlar Ranger District's office (540) 291-2188.

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The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.